

Appl. No. : 09/068,377
Filed : May 8, 1998

The Examiner also indicated that "the amendments to claim 15 would not distinguish the claimed antibody from some of the antibodies of the prior art." In particular, the Examiner found that the comprising language used in claim 15 would encompass anti-FLAG antibodies known in the prior art. Claim 15 recites that the antibodies must "bind specifically" to a PSTPIP polypeptide. This language indicates that the antibodies bind to a unique epitope of the PSTPIP polypeptide. Prior art antibodies that are directed to known epitopes would not bind to a unique epitope on a PSTPIP polypeptide and thus would not bind specifically to PSTPIP polypeptides. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 15 does not encompass prior art antibodies. However, to make this distinction clear Applicants have amended claim 15 to recite that the antibodies bind specifically to a PSTPIP polypeptide sequence. As the prior art antibodies, including an anti-FLAG antibody, would not bind to a PSTPIP polypeptide sequence, Applicants submit that the claim is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and an early action to that effect is respectfully solicited. If any issues remain or require further clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' counsel at the number listed below in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

-- 15. (Four times amended) An antibody that binds specifically to a PST phosphatase interacting protein (PSTPIP) polypeptide sequence within a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of

(i) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the PSTPIP polypeptide shown in Fig. 1A (SEQ ID NO: 1); and

(ii) a polypeptide encoded by nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleic acid residues 682 to 1926 of SEQ ID NO: 2, said stringent conditions comprising hybridization in a solution containing 50% formamide, 5 x SSC (0.75 M NaCl, 0.075 M sodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6-8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5x Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon sperm DNA (50 µg/ml), 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) and 10% dextran sulfate at 42°C followed by wash at 42°C in 0.2 x SSC and 0.1% SDS, and which has both the ability to stimulate actin polymerization and the ability to bind to a protein tyrosine phosphatase which (a) possesses a non-catalytic domain comprising a region rich in proline, serine and threonine residues and a C-terminal 20 amino acid segment which is rich in proline residues, and (b) defines at least one SH3 binding domain.--

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